

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of the hybrid meeting of the General Purposes Committee, held on Monday the 21st October 2024.

PRESENT: Councillor N. Davies (in the Chair).

Councillors: M. Buckley, R. Davies, C. Griffiths, E. Jones, M. Moore, M. Perfect, V. Perfect and M. Whittaker.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor D. Challenger, P. Cunningham, J. Stoneley, I. Roberts.

IN ATTENDANCE: L. Wood, Town Clerk and N. Thornton, Support Officer

124. PUBLIC ENQUIRY ITEM

There were no public enquiry items.

125. DECLARATION OF INTEREST – MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

There were no declarations of interests.

126. MINUTES

Councillor M. Moore proposed the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 16th September 2024 be approved, which was seconded by Councillor M. Buckley.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 16th September 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

127. FLINT FESTIVAL & TOWN EVENTS

Councillor M. Perfect provided an overview of the upcoming events and said if anyone would like to volunteer at any of the events to offer their help, it would be much appreciated.

Saturday 25th October: Spooktacular event at the Town Hall.

Saturday 9th November: in collaboration with the Church, a Cheesy Quiz Night will be held, all proceeds will go towards the Church Clock fund, which is currently in a state of disrepair.

Thursday 28th November: Christmas Light Switch-On, there will be a Christmas Market, Fairground, School Choirs and a Brass Band for everyone to enjoy.

Friday 13th December: Light Up a Life event with Carols around the Christmas tree, all proceeds to St. Kentigerns.

Saturday 14th December: Flint Festival of Lights event, truck drivers pay £10 to take part and all proceeds will go to the Food Bank and SuperKids.

Sunday 15th December: The Santa Dash on the Coastal Path.

Councillor M. Perfect also mentioned that she plans to visit local food businesses to inform them of the Christmas Light Switch-On date, so they can prepare a special Christmas menu.

Councillor M. Buckey suggested that on the evening of the Flint Festival of Lights, the RNLI could be invited to open and serve food to the truck drivers, which would raise funds for them.

RESOLVED: That the report was noted.

128. TRANSPORT BRIEFING

Councillor N. Davies reported that she attended the Transport Meeting on 4th October in her capacity as the North and Mid Wales Association of Local Councils Representative. She highlighted that the issue of two-carriage trains remains a problem, as she experienced on her journey from Flint to Cardiff. The train was extremely overcrowded, and one of the toilets was out of service. These issues were raised during the meeting. She also expressed concerns about overcrowded platforms, especially during peak times, and noted that train punctuality continues to be problematic, with frequent delays.

Mr. N. Smith, Regional Manager of Avanti, was present at the meeting. He mentioned that Avanti are looking at reintroducing more of the trains on the Holyhead to London line that were previously cut in timetable changes and in relation to the new Avanti Evero trains, there are already some in operation and they are low carbon compared to the old rolling stock.

Councillor N. Davies proposed that one of the trains be named 'Flint Castle', Mr. N. Smith said he would present this suggestion to his superiors at Avanti.

Councillor M. Whittaker expressed his thanks to the Town Council for their historic and continued interest and campaigning with respect to local train services. He drew attention to proposed timetable changes from Transport for Wales in December 2024, specifically noting that the TFW connection with the 2002 Avanti West Coast from Euston to Holyhead at Chester has been withdrawn necessitating a near 50 min wait at Chester for onward travel which is unacceptable. He suggested that these issues should be raised at a future Transport Meeting with TFW and Avanti West Coast.

In response, Councillor N. Davies, as the Council representative, offered to take Councillor M. Whittaker's concerns to the next meeting if he provides a list of the issues.

RESOLVED: That the report was noted, and Councillor N. Davies will feedback the issues raised by Councillor M. Whittaker.

129. STREETSCENE UPDATE

Following a meeting held on Wednesday, 9th October with Flintshire Streetscene Officers, which was attended by several Councillors, the minutes of this meeting were circulated to all Councillors for their information.

Councillor N. Davies suggested that these meetings could be held on a more regular basis to address ongoing concerns.

The Town Clerk reminded the Council that Mr. S. Tulley, Flintshire Streetscene Officer, had requested that the Council nominate two representatives to work closely with Streetscene and report any issues. Councillor M. Perfect and Councillor E. Jones were nominated as the representatives.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting was noted.

130. FLINT – YOUR BANKING HUB

Councillor M. Buckley reported that herself and the Town Clerk attended a meeting with Mr. I. Lambert, Community Engagement Officer, Cash Access UK.

Councillor M. Buckley said that the key points were that Flint will have a Banking Hub in place by the time the Town's last bank, TSB, closes in May 2025.

A building has been identified as a hub and if any unexpected delays occur, a temporary hub would be set up, usually in a Post office, Library or a Town Hall.

The hub will operate with different banks attending on set days, and this schedule will be widely publicised.

Prior to the hub's opening, a series of information days will be held for residents. The first of these will take place at the Town Hall on Wednesday 20th November, as part of the Community Coffee Morning.

RESOLVED: That the report was noted.

Date of Council Meeting	Monday 21st October, 2024
..... Chair	